

ANTICONVULSANT ENANTIOMERIC AMINO ACID DERIVATIVES

1 This application claims priority from U.S.  
Provisional Application No. 60/013,522 filed March 15,  
1996.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates to novel  
enantiomeric compounds and pharmaceutical compositions  
useful in the treatment of epilepsy and other CNS  
disorders.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 The predominant application of  
anticonvulsant drugs is the control and prevention of  
seizures associated with epilepsy or related central  
nervous system disorders. Epilepsy refers to many  
15 types of recurrent seizures produced by paroxysmal  
excessive neuronal discharges in the brain; the two  
main generalized seizures are petit mal, which is  
associated with myoclonic jerks, akinetic seizures,  
transient loss of consciousness, but without  
20 convulsion; and grand mal which manifests in a  
continuous series of seizures and convulsions with  
loss of consciousness.

25 The mainstay of treatment for such disorders  
has been the long-term and consistent administration  
of anticonvulsant drugs. Most drugs in use are weak  
acids that, presumably, exert their action on neurons,  
glial cells or both of the central nervous system.  
The majority of these compounds are characterized by  
30 the presence of at least one amide unit and one or